Transparency in JUDICIARY

365. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is serious enough to make judiciary transparent, accountable and corruption free;

(b) whether judges are willing to declare their assets and liabilities despite Governmentus persistence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Writ Petition (C) No. 288/09 filed on behalf of the Honuble Supreme Court in the Delhi High Court, challenging the order dated 6th January, 2009 passed by the Central Information Commission under the Right to Information Act, 2005, it has been asserted on behalf of Supreme Court that the judiciary has no objection to disclosure of assets of judges provided this is done in a formal manner by an Act of Parliament with adequate safeguards. It has been, *inter alia*, stated therein that "the Learned Judges of the Supreme Court are not opposed to declaring their assets provided that such declarations are made in accordance with due procedure laid down by a law which would prescribe (a) the authority to which the declaration would be made; (b) the forrn in which the declaration would have to be made along with a clear definition of what constitutes uassetsu; and (c) proper safeguards, checks and balances to prevent misuse of the information which would be made available".

In this regard, the Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation to ensure standard and accountability in the higher judiciary.

Implementation of Gram Nyayalaya Act

366. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to implement the Gram Nyayalaya Act;

(b) how many States have responded so far; and

(c) if none, what steps would be taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has brought the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 into force *w.e.f.* October 2, 2009. The Government has also requested the State Governments to operationalize the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 and set up these courts in their respective States. The Central Government has also decided to provide financial assistance to the States for establishing the Gram Nyayalayas and for operating the same during the first three years. The Central Government would bear the non-recurring cost of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00